

**Message from Rodney Babe**  
**01.14.10**

From Rodney:

Thank you for your prayers. The situation in Port-au-Prince is very dire. Our 4th story apartment was one of the casualties. Sharyn had returned from teaching yesterday and was in the apartment for about an hour when the quake struck. Details are still difficult to write, but a wall and the ceiling (concrete) collapsed simultaneously. As they collapsed, she was thrown from her computer station and high backed office chair. The concrete slabs hit the chair which caused them to slide to the side rather than crushing her. She began to crawl toward an open space. About that time, another wall fell partially crushing her. Again there was some room to wiggle and she managed to continue to crawl toward open spaces as the building collapsed totally.

Eventually the 4 stories became a single story of rubble. She continued to crawl and eventually made it to the street. All told, perhaps 3 minutes.

Neighbors carried/ dragged her away from other buildings and walls. Eventually she went to a hospital that was overflowing and was given a couple aspirin....all they had for medicine. The hospital was closed shortly afterwards due to damage.

She finally got to the U.S. embassy. She was on a backboard by this time and was examined by a missionary doctor and the embassy doctor, neither who had x-rays. They both fear she has a broken back.

The embassy arranged for helicopter evacuation to a U.S. military hospital in Guantanamo, Cuba. This seemed prudent because she was in intense pain and had significant swelling of the entire waist area. She also had increasing problems breathing. She had some cuts and many bruises developing and was unable to move her right leg, although she has feeling in it and can wiggle her toes.

She was medically evacuated about 2 p.m. today. I was not permitted to accompany her as only seriously injured people were put on the medivac helicopter.

I do not know when I will have computer access again as I am leaving the embassy soon. In Port-au-Prince, there still is no phone service or electricity.

Thank you,  
Rodney